THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 4th August 1950.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I have to announce to the House that under Rule 15 of the Madras Council Rules, I have nominated the following four members of the Council to be the panel of Chairmen for the second session of the Council as from the commencement of the Constitution.—

(1) Sri K. Manathunainatha Desigar,

(2) Sri N. Venkatachalamaji,

(3) Mrs. M. Hensman and

(4) Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao.

II.—DR. V. K. JOHN'S RESIGNATION.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I have to inform the House that under the provisions of clause 3 (b) of Article 190 of the Constitution of India, Dr. V. K. John has tendered his resignation of the office of Member of the Madras Legislative Council with effect from the 18th July 1950 and his resignation has been accepted.

" Dr. John has written a letter to me regarding his resignation and I think it is right that I must acquaint the House with the contents of this letter. The Secretary will now read this letter. The Secretary then read the following letter :—

'I am writing to resign my seat in the Legislative Council, Madras, for the reason that my firm Messrs. John & Row has accepted the post of " State Counsel " from the 1st of August 1950 with the result that I hold an office of profit within the meaning of Article 191 (1) (*a*) of the Constitution of India.

'I was returned to the Legislative Council in March 1940 about ten years ago and I feel that I might leave this field of service for another. I have also been the Leader of the Opposition for a long time and it is only fair that somebody else may be given the opportunity to occupy this position.

'I must thank you most sincerely for all the courtesy and consideration you have shown me. I consider it a great privilege to have been a member of the House, of which you are the Chairman and to have occupied the position of the Leader of the Opposition.

'I want you to convey my most sincere gratitude to every one of the Hon'ble Members of the House for the kindness they have invariably shown me and particularly to the members of the Government, including the Leader of the House with all of whom, I have had the most cordial relationship.

'Among the Legislative bodies in our country, the reputation of the Madras Legislative Council stands very high and in creating and sustaining this reputation, every member has contributed his bit. It is for others to evaluate what contribution the opposition under my leadership has made, but I might be permitted to say this, that it has been our anxious concern that the opposition should function without fear or favour, without ill-will or animosity but only with the one object of assisting by criticisms, suggestions and otherwise the good Government of our State. No doubt, the opposition has very strongly criticized Government measures, but it has criticized measures, not men, and never was it

a party to the making of charges or mud-slinging against Ministers; on the other hand, we deprecated them in the recognition that every one of the Ministers is a patriotic, hard-working, sincere and honest gentleman, anxious to serve the public. The Opposition has not always been engaged in criticisms only. It has given strong support to the Government in a few matters, particularly in the maintenance of order and security in the State.

'The Opposition has jealously strived to keep up the usefulness, the prestige and the dignity of the House, anxious to make the House a model Legislature and in this we have succeeded in a very large measure with your co-operation and guidance.

'I am particularly thankful to the Press for the publicity it has invariably given in the interest of the public to the part played by the Opposition in the Legislative Council, under my leadership. The Press in Madras has played its part magnificently well in reporting the proceedings of the Legislative Council.

'It is my sincere wish that during the short period before the next elections, this House will sustain and enhance its reputation as a Legislative body.

'Thanking you once again',

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"It is a matter of sincere regret to me that Dr. John is no longer to be with us in this House. It is a well-recognized fact that, if any Legislature has to function fully, effectively and satisfactorily, a well-organized, powerful strong Opposition, strong in strength as well as in knowledge is an absolute desideratum. Though the Opposition in this House is not strong in numbers, it is a matter of pride to us that its knowledge, culture and experience stands very high in the estimation of not only this House, but also of the discerning public. I have, no doubt, whatsoever that Dr. John's contribution has gone a long way in building up this reputation. As a lawyer of eminence, his knowledge of men and matters and, above all, his legal acumen stood him in great stead and his speeches are always noted for lucid exposition of correct principles underlying all legislation. He has always proved himself to be a fearless champion of what he considered right and, I am sure, the Government appreciated his frankness. There have been many a passage at arms between him and the Government and it is very pleasing to note that it left no rancour behind on either side. I am particularly gratified that on occasions when I called upon Dr. John to uphold the dignity of the House, he gladly responded, in spite of his own personal inclinations. The House will agree with me that his absence is a distinct loss to this House but, perhaps, our loss is a gain to the Government. I am sure, Dr. John has taken up his new duties only in a spirit of service and I wish him well in his future career.

"The new leader, Mr. Farookhi is not new to us. I have no doubt, that the House congratulates him in the great and arduous task, to which he is called and, I am sure, he will scrupulously uphold the high traditions built up by his predecessors in office."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI:—"Sir, I thank you for the great compliment that you have given me. I think that every member of our party is competent as myself, if not more, to occupy this place. I am thankful to the members of my party for the honour that they have done me in electing me as their Leader. I only hope and pray to God that I may discharge my

4th August 1950] [Janab Abdul Latif Farookhi]

duties faithfully and rise equal to the occasion. There is one thing to which I would like to draw your attention and also the attention of the hon. Members and that is this. We are building very healthy traditions in public life. This party, as you are all aware, is perhaps the one of its kind in the whole of the country which is non-communal in character after the advent of independence in 1947. Therefore I feel it a great privilege and honour to have been elected by members of all communities as the Leader of this party. I once again thank you as well as the House for congratulating me and also thank my party for electing me as the Leader of their party.

III.—DISCUSSION ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

SPEECH OF H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

Hon. Members of the Legislature,

1. Let me first of all thank you for your courtesy in attending this joint session. Several important matters will come under your scrutiny in the next few days and I have no doubt that your deliberations will be watched with interest throughout the State.

2. The financial operations of this State have become more difficult this year than they were during the last year, owing to the conditions prevailing in the money market and the financial stringency experienced even by the Government of India, and my Government have, in consequence, been forced to resort to various means for effecting savings with a view to sustain their programme on major irrigation and electricity schemes. Even last year the Government were faced with an unexpectedly sudden and difficult problem for financing part of the capital expenditure on these schemes, but, with great difficulty, they managed to adhere to their programme by adopting special measures. The position has been rendered even more difficult this year, but the Government cannot afford to curtail their programme, especially as over twenty-five crores have been spent on these schemes on valuable equipment, and in building up the necessary organization. The programme itself is expected to come into fruition by 1952 when it is expected that large tracts of dry land will be brought under irrigation and power availability will be doubled. For a State, sadly short of food and motive power, the importance of sustaining such a programme which holds out great hopes, cannot be over emphasised, not merely from the State's point of view but also from the All-India angle. It is expected that, as a result of the economy measures undertaken, a saving of about three crores, at the utmost, may be effected. But this move, by itself, will not enable the State Government to finance their programme and other measures will have to be thought of, including assistance from the Centre. The hon. Members are no doubt aware that the Government went into the open market for a loan of Rs. 4 crores and I am happy